

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Seat Belt Saves Truck Driver's Life

Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer 1 Gerald Dell was just doing his job on August 31, 2004, when he issued truck driver Darren Trusty a citation for not wearing his seat belt. At the time the seat belt was covered with old pop bottles and sweatshirts.

Twelve days later Darren Trusty was driving his 1974 Kenworth dump truck when he slid off a logging road with a load of crushed road and plunged 140 feet down an embankment. The dump truck rolled four times leaving Trusty with a broken rib and bruises, but alive. This time he was wearing his seat belt.

Darren credits the seat belt with saving his life that day. He wants others to know the importance of always wearing it.

“The Commercial Vehicle Division of the Washington State Patrol focuses on making the roadways safer for the motoring public, both passenger car and commercial motor vehicle drivers. Seat belt use in Washington State among truck drivers is high but can be improved. It is a critical component in reducing injuries and deaths on our highways in Washington,” stated Captain Coral Estes.

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